

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 06848 01 OF 02 301653Z

42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 SP-02 SSO-00 NEAE-00

EB-07 SS-15 L-03 INR-07 INRE-00 /065 W

----- 088153

O 301615Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4392

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 6848

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND AID ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATOR NOOTER FROM AMBASSADOR

USUN PASS ATHERTON

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: USTSJC EAID OCON TS

SUBJECT: US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION: STATE OF PLAY
AND REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE

REF: TUNIS 6795

1. REFTEL REPORTED OFFICIAL GOT REQUEST FOR STATEMENT
OF US INTENTIONS AT JOINT COMMISSION AND "INSTRUCTIONS"
TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY ON THIS SUBJECT.. PURPOSE
OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO TRY TO SUMMARIZE WHERE I THINK
WE STAND (BOTH FOR AID AND FOR ATHERTON IN HIS MEETING
WITH CHATTY IF THIS MESSAGE ARRIVES IN TIME), AND TO
REQUEST IMMEDIATE GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON AGAINST
LIKELY EVENT THAT EITHER AID MISSION DIRECTOR OR I
ARE AGAIN APPROACHED IN NEXT FEW DAYS ON WHETHER USG
AND GOT ARE CLOSE ENOUGH TOGETHER ON QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE
TO FIVE YEAR PLAN TO MAKE WASHINGTON JC MEETING THIS
OCTOBER FRUITFUL. I PERSONALLY THINK WE ARE CLOSER
TOGETHER THAN GOT MAY REALIZE.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT GOT CONCERN IS BASED ON THEIR
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 06848 01 OF 02 301653Z

PERCEPTION THAT "UNSUCCESSFUL" JC MEETING WOULD

PSYCHOLOGICALLY JEOPARDIZE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING OF FIVE YEAR PLAN, SINCE WE HAVE BEEN TRADITIONAL MAJOR AID DONOR. THIS, THEY FEAR, COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON ALL OTHER AID DONORS, WHO IN FUTURE WILL HAVE TO CARRY MORE OF THE BURDEN. IN MY VIEW, CURRENT TUNISIAN WORRIES ARE MORE ABOUT PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE THAN THAT WE CANNOT MEET \$25 MILLION A YEAR FIGURE CITED BY ZAAOUNI.

3. IN FACT, IN LAST MONTH OR TWO, WITH EXCELLENT WASHINGTON BACKING, WE HAVE MADE A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS IN FORMULATING A RESPECTABLE PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE FIVE YEAR PLAN AND AID IS NOW MOVING AHEAD ALMOST ACROSS THE BOARD. LET ME SUMMARIZE WHERE I THINK WE ARE IN VARIOUS SECTORS.

A. RURAL DEVELOPMENT: TUNISIAN AIDE MEMOIRE ON FIVE YEAR PLAN (TUNIS 6629) ASKS, IN EFFECT, THAT WE SPEED UP OBLIGATION \$5 MILLION LOAN FOR SILIANA AND PROVIDE SECOND \$5 MILLION TRANCHE THEREAFTER. WE NOW CAN SAY THAT: \$200,000 OBLIGATED IN TQ (PROAG WILL BE SIGNED TODAY); ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECT LOAN WILL PROCEED (\$2.4 MILLION); AND (BY TIME OF JC) SILIANA WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR \$500,000 WILL BE APPROVED. IN ADDITION, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT OTHER AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS LISTED IN AIDE MEMOIRE, SOME OF WHICH MAY WELL BE OF INTEREST TO JOINT AID-AGRICULTURE COUNCIL TEAM

THAT ARRIVES FOLLOWING JOINT COMMISSION. SUCH EARLY VISIT WILL ITSELF REPRESENT POSITIVE US EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO TUNISIAN NEEDS.

B. FAMILY PLANNING: AID IS PROGRAMMING \$3.6 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF TUNISIAN EFFORTS IN FY 78 AND 79 (STATE 225178).

C. RURAL HEALTH: FOLLOWING ALDEN VISIT WE ARE MUCH CLOSER TOGETHER IN THINKING, AND AID IS PUTTING TOGETHER PACKAGE THAT COULD POSSIBLY TOTAL \$3.7 MILLION (TUNIS 6646).

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PAGE 03 TUNIS 06848 01 OF 02 301653Z

D. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: AID EXPERT NOW IN TUNIS STUDYING POSSIBILITIES, AND I ASSUME THAT, GIVEN HIGH INTEREST ON BOTH SIDES, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO STATE AT JC MEETING THAT WE WILL BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER LOAN OF SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS IN THIS AREA SOME TIME DURING COURSE OF PLAN. GOT HAS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED HELP IN FINANCING EARTH STATION, AND WE WILL BE LOOKING

CAREFULLY AT THIS REQUEST AS WELL AS POSSIBILITIES FOR
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY.

3. PL-480: TUNISIAN AIDE MEMOIRE REQUESTS
80,000 TONS OR APPROXIMATELY \$12 MILLION IN FY 77.
THIS MAY BE BEST AREA FOR CLEAR POLITICAL DECISION TO

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 06848 02 OF 02 301643Z

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----- 087736

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4393

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 801

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TUNIS 6848

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND AID ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATOR NOOTER FROM AMBASSADOR

USUN PASS ATHERTON

INCREASE MAGNITUDE OF OUR ASSISTANCE. SEPARATE MESSAGE
THIS SUBJECT FOLLOWS TODAY.

F. HOUSING INVESTMENT GUARANTEE: WE EXPECT TO
BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE \$20 MILLION HIG AT JC MEETING AND
WOULD CONSIDER FUTURE REQUESTS.

G. AGRIBUSINESS: WE ARE ANTICIPATING \$3 MILLION
PARTICIPATION IN AGRIBUSINESS PROJECT FOR FY 77 (STATE
192468).

H. TERM OF COMMITMENT: WE WILL BE AT TUNISIA'S
SIDE THROUGH END OF FIVE YEAR PLAN IN 1981.

4. I BELIEVE THAT ABOVE CAN BE PRESENTED IN SUCH A WAY
AS TO DEMONSTRATE STRONG SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ASPECTS OF FIVE YEAR PLAN ON PART OF USG, PARTICULARLY
IF WE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT CLOSING THE DOOR
TO ADDITIONAL SOUND PROJECTS, AND THAT TOIS COULD BE HELPFUL
TO GOT IN EFFORTS TO RAISE ADDITIONAL FINANCING AND TAKE
SOME OF THE HEAT OFF US. I WILL BE LEAVING FOR JC MEETING
IN LITTLE OVER A WEEK AND EXPECT FURTHER APPROACH FROM
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 06848 02 OF 02 301643Z

GOT ASKING FOR REASSURANCES WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: I WILL NEED AS MUCH AMMUNITION
AS WASHINGTON CAN GIVE ME AND REQUEST GUIDANCE NO
LATER THAN TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION CONTROL, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, FIVE YEAR PLAN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TUNIS06848
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760368-1239
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976091/aaaaaahy.tel
Line Count: 187
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TUNIS 6795
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION: STATE OF PLAY AND REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE
TAGS: EAID, OCON, US, TS, USTSJC
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006